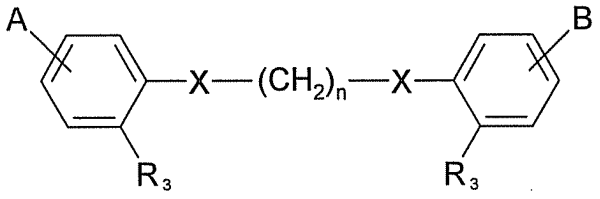
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for treating Alzheimer's disease in a subject in need of treatment thereof, the method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of an amidine compound, wherein the amidine compound comprises a bis-benzamidine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (Currently amended) [[The]] A method of treating Alzheimer's disease in a subject in need of treatment thereof~~Claim 17~~, the method comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of an amidine compound wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (I):

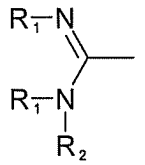


(I)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and ~~compounds~~ substituents of formula (i):



(i)

subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i);

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i) together represent —$(CH_2)_m$— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

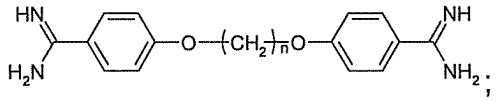
R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

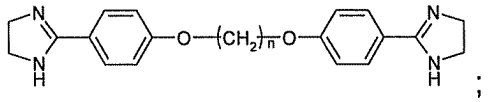
n is an integer from 2 to 6; and

X is O, NH, or S;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:


;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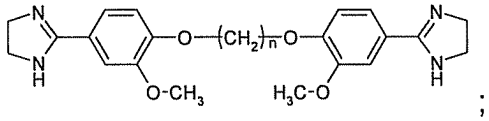
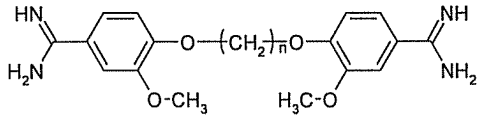
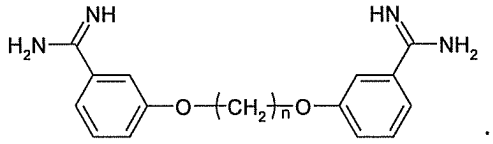

;

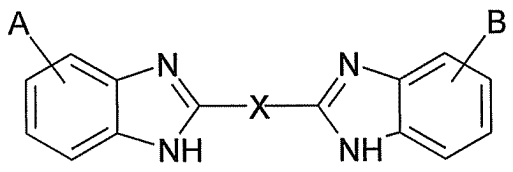

; and


;

wherein n is an integer from 2 to 6;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (II):

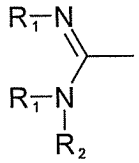


(II)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently ~~selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds~~ substituents of formula (i):



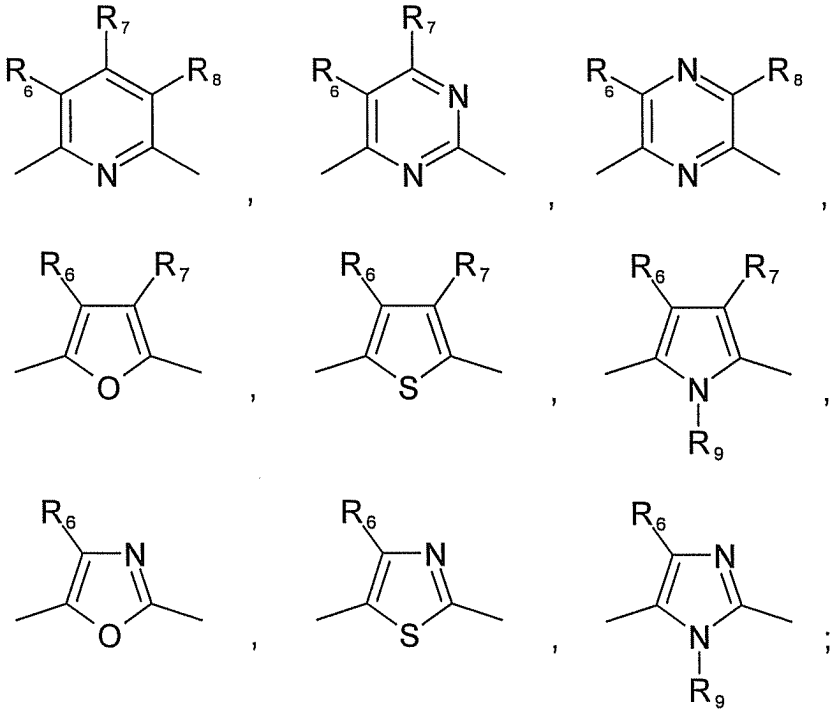
(i)

~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i)~~;

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i) together represent —$(CH_2)_m$— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

X is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_1-C_{12} alkyl comprising up to 4 double bonds; or X is a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



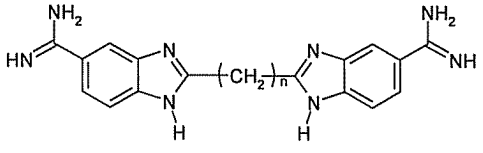
wherein

R_6, R_7, and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

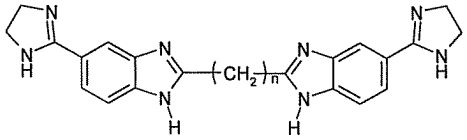
R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

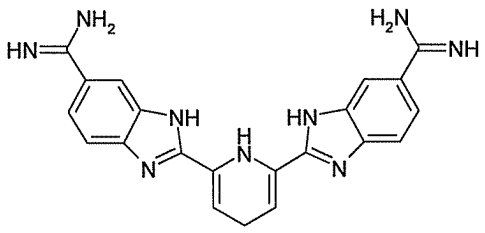
21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 20, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



;



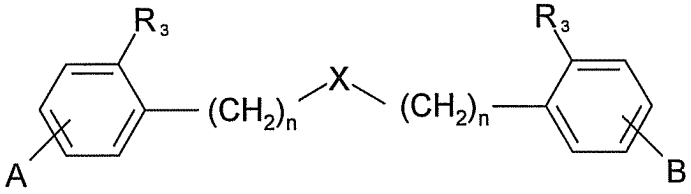
; and



;

wherein n is an integer from 1 to 12;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (III):

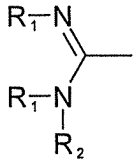


(III)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently ~~selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds~~ substituents of formula (i):



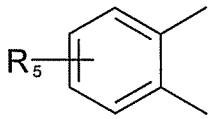
(i)

~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i)~~;

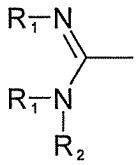
R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i) together represent —$(CH_2)_m$— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R_1 groups on the same ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is

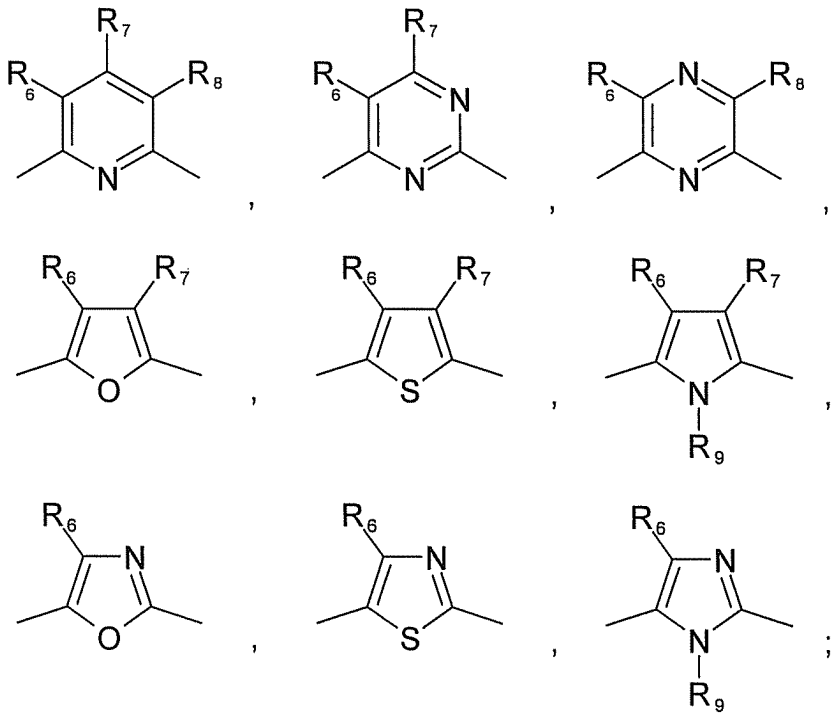


(i)

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

n is an integer from 0 to 2; and

X is CH_2O or a heterocyclic aromatic group selected from the group consisting of:



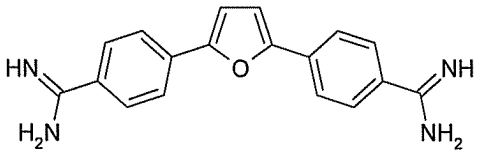
wherein:

R_6, R_7, and R_8 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

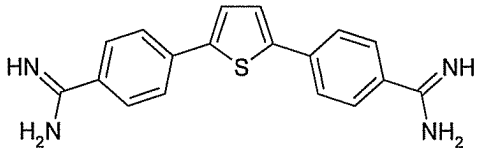
R_9 is hydrogen, loweralkyl, hydroxy, aminoalkyl, or alkylaminoalkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

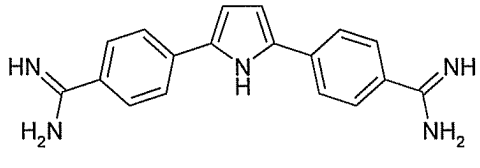
23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 22 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



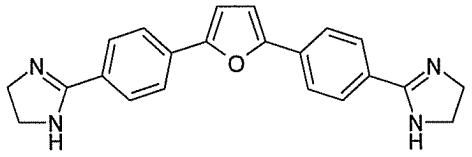
;



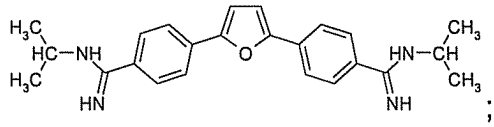
;



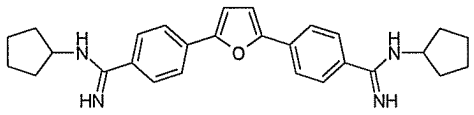
;



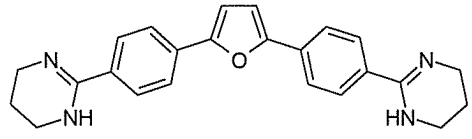
;



;



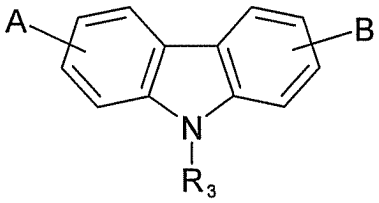
; and



;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (IV):

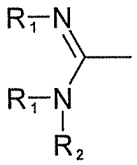


(IV)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently ~~selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds~~ substituents of formula (i):



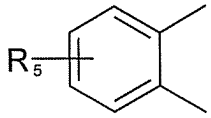
(i)

~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);~~

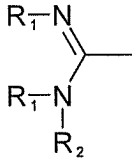
R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

or two R_1 groups on the same ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i) together represent —$(CH_2)_m$— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

or two R_1 groups on the same ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is

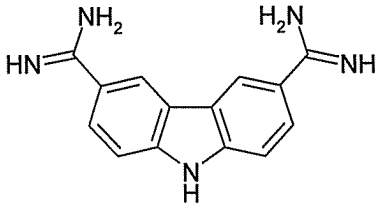


(i)

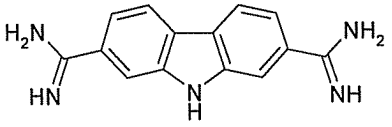
; and

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 24 wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



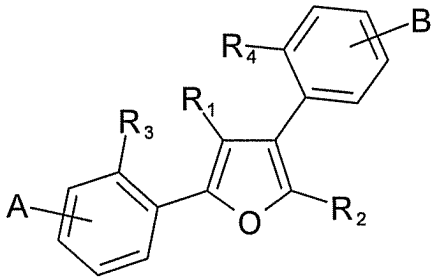
; and



;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

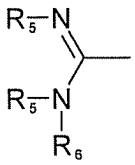
26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein:

A and B are each independently ~~selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds~~ substituents of formula (ii):



(ii)

~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (ii);~~

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aminoaryl, halogen, oxyalkyl, oxyaryl, or oxyarylalkyl;

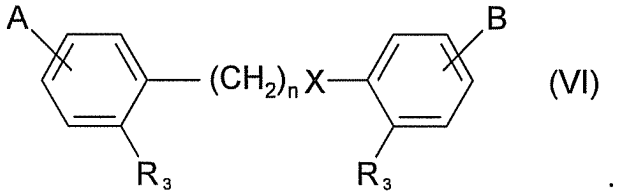
R_3 and R_4 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkylaryl, aryl, oxyaryl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or halogen;

each R_5 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;

or two R_5 groups together represent C_2 to C_{10} alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkylene; and

R_6 is H, hydroxy, loweralkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkylaminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxycycloalkyl, alkoxycycloalkyl, aryl, and alkylaryl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein the amidine comprises a compound of formula (VI):

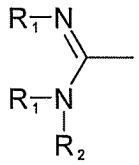


(VI)

;

wherein:

A and B are each independently ~~selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, nitro, amino, aminoalkyl, halo, hydroxy, carboxy, and compounds~~ substituents of formula (i):



(i)

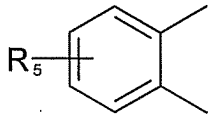
~~subject to the proviso that at least one of A and B is a compound of formula (i);~~

R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, and alkylaminoalkyl;

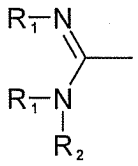
or two R_1 groups on the same ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i) together represent —$(CH_2)_m$— wherein m is 2, 3, or 4;

R_3 is H, loweralkyl, oxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, or halogen;

or two R_1 groups on the same ~~compound~~ substituent of formula (i) together represent



wherein R_5 is



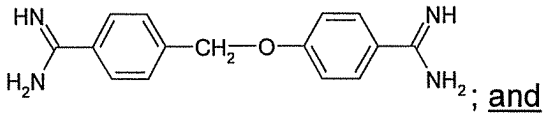
(i)

X is O, S, or NH;

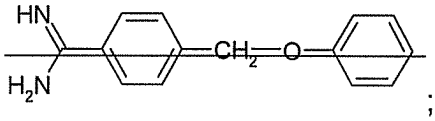
n is an integer from 1 to 8;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

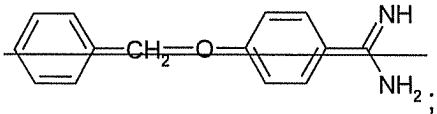
28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the amidine comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of:



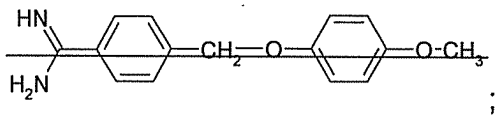
; and



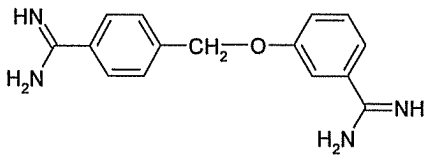
;



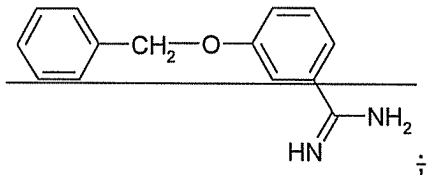
;



;



; ~~and~~

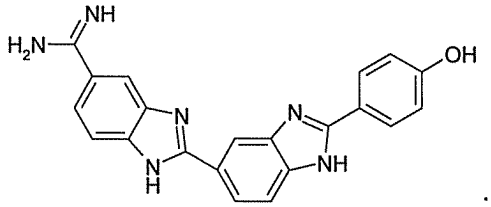


;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[17]]18 wherein the amidine comprises a bis-benzamidine.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17 wherein the amidine comprises a compound having the following structure:



;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the subject is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.

32-48. (Canceled)

Please add the following new claim:

49. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the subject is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease.